



Late Backup

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August 2, 2012

ADAPT Comments to City Council on the Proposed November 2012 Bond Election

ADAPT of Texas asks the City Council to put forward a bond package that includes \$ 100 Million in Housing Bonds. We believe this should be done by redirecting funds from the open space program recommended by the Bond Advisory Task Force.

The waiting list for Section 8 Housing is about 6 years long; Public Housing is about a year. Housing costs are through the roof, especially the new housing which would be more likely to be accessible. The City's current "affordable" housing development targets people with incomes at 80% of Median Family Income, MFI, (about \$39,850 for a single person). Most of our members and many in the disability community are below 15% MFI (SSI payments are about \$698 per month; \$8,376 a year Social Security Disability is a little higher. Attendants who provide home health services to people with disabilities make \$13,836 a year.

It is our understanding there will be a loss of \$61,624,934 in affordable housing funds over the next 7 years. This is due in part to cuts in federal and state funds. Unless the City of Austin takes a stand and allocates \$100 million dollars for housing that is affordable, accessible and integrated in the community many low income people will be forced to move to surrounding communities.

Because inaccessible housing is substandard housing we believe that there should be an increase in funds available in the bond package for the Architectural Barrier Removal and home repair programs.

ADAPT supports making major roadways a high priority for transportation funds. Some examples are the proposed projects on North Lamar, Burnet Road and Airport Blvd.

In addition, ADAPT supports projects that increase access to hike and bike trails, recreation centers and other new facilities.